

## ABSTRACT

The present invention addresses the problem of excessive discoloration in hydroquinone compositions of a neutral pH. Antioxidants in the hydroquinone phase and inorganic or amino acyl cationic salts of acidic ascorbyl esters, preferably sodium metabisulfite and magnesium ascorbyl phosphate respectively, are effective in stabilizing such hydroquinone compositions, which are used in treatment of pigmentation disorders. Protected retinoid may be added to these compositions for additional skin benefit effects.